

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace abstract on page 35 with the following amended paragraph:

Described are multilayer optical composites ~~comprising~~ including a first layer having an index of refraction  $n_1$ , an  $i^{\text{th}}$  layer having an index of refraction  $n_i$  greater than  $n_1$ , and one or two or more intermediate layers between the first layer and the  $i^{\text{th}}$  layer, wherein the indices of refraction of the intermediate layers are between  $n_1$  and  $n_i$ , and the index of refraction of each intermediate layer increases in the order of position of each layer from the first layer.